Department (IMD). Weather messages are broadcast by the coastal radio stations for all mariners at sea, while local weather warnings are relayed through port organisations along the coast. In addition, Indian Navy also broadcasts normal weather messages to all ships twice daily from its wireless stations. In case the weather deteriorates or a cyclone develops, this frequency of transmission is increased.

(e) Not applicable.

Conveyance allowance to army personnel

4622. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases with regard to the payment of conveyance allowance to army personnel for attending resettlement, courses attached to them before retirement where pre-boarding/ lodging was not provided which are pending with Government for settlement;

(b) whether they have been granted NRA for the said period; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in settlement of such claims?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Task forces for defence design

4623. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industries and the Defence Research and Development Organisation have decided to set up a number of task forces to work out a joint partnership in defence design, development, production and marketing of products; and

(b) if so, the details of the task forces indicating the areas of cooperation to be explored?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Six task forces have been constituted by the Ministry of Defence to submit recommendations to enhance partnership between the Defence Ministry and the Industry.

(b) These Joint Task Forces have been constituted to submit recommendations in the following areas with a view to enhance the partnership with the Industry:—

(i) Defence-Industry Long Term Partnership.
(ii) Commercial Process.
(iii) DRDO-Industry Partnership.
(iv) Private Sector Undertakings/ Ordnance Factories/Private Sector complimentary.
(v) Defence Export Strategy.
(vi) Information Technology for Defence.

Modernisation of Fire Services

4624. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has come from Andhra Pradesh for modernising and expanding fire services;

(b) whether there are some Central Government schemes to finance the development of fire services; and

(c) if so, the details of schemes and finances offered to State Governments to upgrade their fire services?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) No such proposal has been received in the recent past.

(b) and (c) The Tenth Finance Commission has allocated Rs. 8000.00 lakhs for the States for upgradation of their fire services. The share of Andhra